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AUGUST 1953

EXTENSION SERVICE

*Review*





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# Ear to the Ground

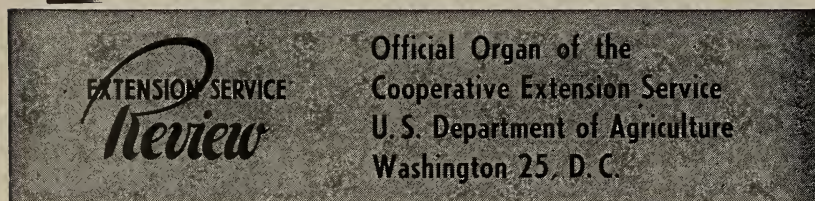
• Wheat is still in the news. Many States have done an A-1 educational job in regard to the wheat referendum, allotments, storage facilities, and other phases of the problem. We hope to have some late accounts of how this is being done and what methods are proving most effective for the September issue.

• Sadie Hatfield of Texas writes a testimonial for the time-saving, leader-developing workshops. She knows whereof she writes, for she has just completed a workshop in home beautification whose success reached the REVIEW through an enthusiastic report from Sallie Hill, a magazine editor. Not only good copy but good pictures you'll see.

• Speaking of pictures, George Johnson, Pennsylvania's visual instructor, well known to REVIEW readers for his excellent article on photography (some time back) writes us a discerning critique of REVIEW pictures, and wants to know who took the good picture of Agent Frank Svoboda on the June cover. It was Robert Raustadt, and you'll be interested to hear what he and Johnson say about it on the page "Letters from Readers."

• Armed with a good idea about training 230 women to act as judges for county events, supported with some interesting pictures, Evelyn Byrd Hutcheson from our neighbor extension staff in Maryland visited the REVIEW office. The story looked good to us. Judge for yourself next month.

• Fern Shipley, a new member of our 4-H staff, brought in a good story about how Wetzel County, W. Va. was sending seeds to the Philippines. Answering our query, Home Demonstration Agent Kathleen Stephenson said the story was bigger than that. So, she wrote of the annual 4-H Convention and what it is doing to develop leadership in the county in an article scheduled for next month.



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# Detroit Looks to Its County Agent

**W**HAT'S it like to be a "big city-farm agent"?

How does it differ from a county agent's job where a large share of the people are rural?

Let P. R. Biebesheimer tell you. He knows because he has worked in both kinds of counties. He is the Wayne County, Mich., agricultural agent. That's the county that contains metropolitan Detroit. He previously served for 20 years in part of the Wolverine State's big potato producing area—Wexford County.

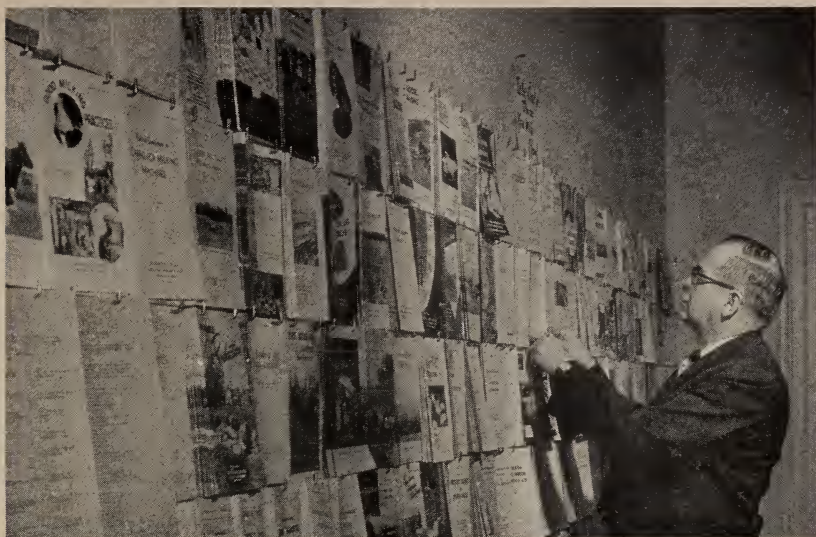
For one thing, the 51-year-old Biebesheimer will tell you, the working hours aren't cut in the least. You don't work an 8-hour shift like most of the automotive manufacturing employees. More likely it's a 15-hour day.

One of his big jobs includes appearing on as many as three television shows a week. Preparation for the shows takes a lot of time, but "Bieb" feels they're worth it. He can reach a large number of people with his demonstrations.

He doesn't get away from the usual county-agent fare—night work—either. He hops from one end of Wayne County to the other—giving talks, telling of the various services offered through his office and Michigan State College.

At its peak, Wayne County has five extension agents. Two of them spend full time with 4-H Club activities.

The county agent isn't satisfied with his 4-H Club enrollment, however. There are 4,300 members in the county. "We should have 20,000 members," Biebesheimer says. "Why, we have a potential 500,000 in the Detroit area alone."



Mention of a bulletin on a television program brings requests by the hundreds, reports Agent Biebesheimer.

More than half of his 4-H Club members are from the cities. It takes time to keep the city youngsters interested in things like the backyard garden, conservation, home electrification, handicrafts, baby sitting, and care of the lawn and the family car.

He spends part of each day answering telephone questions. Most of the queries come from the small-scale farmers who are city people tilling the ground and raising chickens as a sideline to factory jobs. There are also 300 commercial vegetable growers and about 40 commercial orchards in the county. Despite the area's urban complexion Wayne County has 2,500 farms.

## *Soil Testing Is Popular*

The county is first in the State in production of sweet corn, second in horticultural specialties, and third in soybeans.

That means that Biebesheimer does a lot of soil-testing work, sandwiching it in among his other duties. The lab in the back room of the "Home of Extension" seems always busy.

Why did Biebesheimer change from more of an agricultural county to this? He had a good program going in Wexford County.

In his own words Biebesheimer gives the answer, "I like the diversification here and the fact that there's still unexplored territory to work in."

Biebesheimer was practically born into the business. He was born and reared on his father's farm which then adjoined Michigan State College property at East Lansing. The farm is now a part of the college farm.

"I jumped over the back fence and went to work for Michigan State College, pulling weeds when I was in the eighth grade," the agent explained. Except when he was going to school, he's always worked for the college.

How do you dress when you're a big city-farm agent?

Observers say that Biebesheimer could pass as a sales executive while he is in his office. But when he goes out to country meetings, he puts on boots and a red shirt and jacket.

"You should dress as the other people dress," is his motto.

He would like to have more time to himself, though. He lives on a 5-acre farm not far from his office. He admits that his 15-year-old son and two young daughters do all of the farming. He doesn't have the time.





Mary A. McKee

# The 5-Year Room Plan

MARY A. MCKEE, Assistant Professor of Home Economics 4-H Club Work, Illinois

**W**E HAVE JUST completed 5 years of study, experimentation, and evaluation of a step-by-step room-improvement project for 4-H Club members. We feel that we are "on our way" and this time in the right direction.

Enrollment has increased gradually throughout the 5 years even though no special effort has been made to promote the project. Interest on the part of members, leaders, and parents is growing at a gratifying rate. We count these developments as healthy signs.

Objectives for the project are clearly drawn: (1) to help the member to acquire good taste, (2) to set high standards, and (3) to teach the member to keep in mind always a picture of the complete room.

These objectives make it possible for work done or a purchase made in one year to harmonize with things already in the room and which are to be there during the life of the new purchase. Also these changes or additions will be "right" with improvements to be made in the future. Such "planning backwards and forwards" serves to give continuity to the project which seems to be one of its most important values.

Room-improvement projects are not new in Illinois. In fact, they have been available for 30 years or longer but have attracted little attention on the part of either members or leaders. In 1948 I enlisted

the help of Dorothy Iwig, home furnishings specialist. The first step was to disprove the ingrown assumptions that 4-H Club members are not interested, that the project would be too costly, and that leaders could not be obtained.

We started slowly, interviewing many leaders, parents, specialists, and 4-H Club members, in an attempt to analyze the needs of this age group. Since this was to be a pilot study we were interested in girls who were likely to stay with the project for more than 1 year. Also we considered it important that they understand 4-H Club work and have the cooperation of their parents.

As a result, we decided that members should be 15 years of age or older and starting at least their sixth year of club work. Older girls, those from 16 to 20, were enrolled any year. During the experimental years of the project all members had to carry the same phase of the work. Only one handbook was written each year and a small number of copies run. Parents must be willing for the member to take, as her working laboratory, a room in the house which during the next few years would need improvement.

## Plan for Leader Training

The next step was to obtain and train leaders. Much of the success of the study would depend on the interest and the enthusiasm of these women. Working objectives for the training schools were: (1) to point out ways in which it is easy and interesting to lead a room-improvement club, and to give method along with subject matter, (2) to start where leaders are rather than where

they might be after years of art training, (3) to present illustrative material leaders would like, and could understand, to lead them on from year to year, to open unexpected doors to them, (4) to do something different and to use different illustrative material each year; and finally (5) not to do for leaders what they could and should do for themselves.

## Selection of Projects

"Rearrangement of Furniture" was the project selected for the first year. The member was not permitted to spend one penny. She selected the room in her home as it was, and attempted, after studying principles of arrangement, to make it more convenient, comfortable, and attractive through rearrangement only.

Sixty-eight girls enrolled in the 5-year project the first year. When they had completed their work, Miss Iwig and I met with them as a group, discussed the project pro and con and outlined future plans according to needs.

Each girl turned in her completed handbook for study, analysis, and revision. Also, she was asked to return a comprehensive questionnaire together with a frank statement of the project, its requirements, and the follow-up session.

In 1949 the logical project choice was "window treatments." This was one of the least expensive phases of the work, and we were still fighting to overcome the idea that room-improvement projects must be costly.

This year members were given an opportunity to make either curtains or draperies, or both, for the room they had selected the previous year

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# Extension Legislation

## *Modernized*

- 10 basic extension laws consolidated and codified.
- Administrative and financial procedures simplified.
- Same basic purposes restated with clarifying amendments.

ON JUNE 26 President Eisenhower signed Public Law 83 which has great significance with respect to the further development of Cooperative Extension Work. This new law is in the form of an amendment to the basic Smith-Lever Act of 1914. In amending the original extension law nine other acts or portions of acts applying to extension work were repealed. However, the essential portions of those acts were retained and incorporated into Public Law 83.

Through this action Extension's governing legislation has been greatly simplified. Operations under the Smith-Lever Act as amended will eliminate the necessity for extension administrators to keep separate accounts of Federal funds appropriated under different authorizations. They will no longer need to budget and administer extension funds provided under specific acts in accordance with differing purposes and restrictions indicated therein. This act will eliminate other unnecessary and costly procedures. At the same time, this new legislation overcomes some difficulties inherent in previous extension legislation which tended to inhibit the most efficient development of the work.

### *Decennial Adjustments in Allocations to States Eliminated*

One of the very disruptive elements of previous legislation has been the necessity to adjust allocations to States every 10 years as new census enumerations of farm and rural populations became available. A major portion of Federal funds in support of Cooperative Extension Work has been subject to these decennial adjustments. As a result, when adjustments had to be made,

several States, because of reductions in Federal allocations to them, abruptly had to reduce program activities and staff. Adequate provision for such reductions in Federal allocations could not be made in advance because of inability to forecast with any reasonable degree of accuracy the results of the census enumerations.

Public Law 83 resolves this difficulty in two major ways. In the first instance, it freezes the allocation of current Federal funds on the basis of allocations made in fiscal year 1953. Two minor exceptions to this generalization are continued. The first is the continuation of the existing authority vested in the Secretary of Agriculture to allot \$500,000 to the States on the basis of special needs rather than on the basis of formula or previous allocations. The other is the continuation of the authorization for increases in allocations to Puerto Rico until such allocations reach the amount authorized in the act of October 26, 1949. With these two relatively minor exceptions this act continues for the future the same basis of allocations to the States as prevailed in 1953 with the same "matching" requirements.

The other means of avoiding decennial adjustments in allocations to the several States is found in the provision that any future increases in Federal appropriations for extension work shall be allocated to the States on a formula basis using the census data on farm and rural population current at the time the increase in appropriations is first made. Such allocations are to be continued on that same basis irrespective of changes in farm and rural population revealed by subsequent census enumerations of population.

### *Authorization for Increased Appropriations Granted*

In the past Extension funds have been made available through specific authorization acts of Congress, each indicating a specific amount of money to be appropriated if the Congress saw fit. In each instance, as the full amount of funds under each of these separate and succeeding acts was appropriated, an additional authorization act had to be passed by Congress before it could appropriate increased funds. This situation injected an extra process in the legislative procedure and made it more difficult for Extension to obtain additional funds commensurate with the most pressing needs.

The new act provides that the Congress may from time to time appropriate such sums as it determines to be necessary for the support of extension work. By this action a so-called "open end clause" is provided, making it unnecessary to obtain any additional specific authorization as a prerequisite to requesting additional appropriations.

Through this same action the permanent appropriation provision of the Smith-Lever Act, and subsequent acts extending the benefits of the Smith-Lever Act to Hawaii and Puerto Rico, was repealed. Hereafter all Extension appropriation submissions to the Congress will be considered on an annual basis with no automatic appropriation as was provided in the Smith-Lever Act.

### *Formula for Allocating Future Increases in Appropriations*

Although currently authorized appropriations will be allocated in the future on essentially the same basis  
(Continued on page 159)



# The Job of the Secretary

MRS. GENE GAHNZ, office secretary, Marathon County, Wis.—excerpts from a talk given at a recent district conference on Office Organization and Management

IT IS A LITTLE difficult for me to specifically define the job of a county extension office secretary. Webster defines a secretary as "one entrusted with secret or private matters; also, a person who conducts correspondence, and keeps records for an individual or an organization." A more simple definition of a secretary was given to me by one of my former teachers. He stated that a "stenographer" is a person who takes shorthand and transcribes it, while a "secretary" must be able to do a little of everything involved in running the clerical business in an office.

This is doubly true of a county extension office secretary. In addition to the varied tasks required to conduct the office business, we may be called upon to serve a meal to a group of agents, homemakers, or 4-H members, decorate a hall for a special meeting, wash dishes, help deliver trees, or load the car with demonstration materials. No one could ever say that our work is all routine. That, perhaps, is what makes it so interesting.

An extension secretary is really

an office manager. It is her responsibility to assist the agents by skillful management of the office. In doing this, she not only relieves the agent of wasting valuable time in bothering about small details, which really are necessary and important, but she also makes her own work much easier.

There seems to be a rather definite cycle in the general work of an extension secretary. It takes about one year to become acquainted with the various duties, and after that they more or less repeat themselves throughout the years. Then it is easier for the secretary to anticipate the big jobs that will be coming up in the weeks and months ahead and prepare for doing them, as well as reminding the agent of the routine work ahead.

Recently in our county we had an analysis of all county employees made by the Bureau of Personnel at Madison.

Forty percent of the time was spent on mimeographing and assembling circular letters and educational circulars necessary to conduct work



Gene Gahnz at her files.

for homemakers and 4-H home economics members; 215 stencils were cut with 160,000 copies run, in the home agent's office that year.

Thirty-five percent of the day was spent in answering correspondence, typing radio talks, publicity for newspapers, and preparing teaching aids, reports, and circulars.

Fifteen percent of the day involved duties of reception work, telephone calls, office calls, and giving information and educational material when requested.

Ten percent of the day was spent on permanent records, such as filing, membership lists, secretary's minutes, and reordering bulletins.

Interoffice cooperation between secretaries, as well as agents, is important in order to perform these tasks with a minimum of time and energy. Staff meetings are held by

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Office secretaries get together on a circular letter—Marian Hirsch, Ruth Wendorf, Florence Taeger, and Gene Gahnz.



All members of the Marathon County staff meet at a Monday morning conference.





Mrs. Shepard.

# Office Worthy of an Educator

DOROTHY SMITH, Assistant Editor, New Jersey

NO JUNE brides were ever more aglow than Margaret C. Shepard, senior agent of Essex County, N. J., and her associates, Alice Gaston and Joan Weiss, as they held open house for their Extension friends in their new office home.

It's a semibasement suite, but that doesn't make any difference to "Peg" Shepard. It's luxurious beside the old walkup in the ramshackle building which looked more like a set for one of those "this-is-the-way-life-is" foreign movies.

Things are different now. You can reach the new Essex County Home Economics Extension office through the front door of the Hall of Records Building and walk down through the neatly kept halls, or you can enter directly from a street entrance. Either way, you come upon a large pleasantly lighted room painted

dusty pink. One of the three secretaries seated at large desks will get up and meet you behind a counter which separates their office area from the reception center.

If you want to see Mrs. Shepard, you turn to the right and the first door in the corridor is her office, with a decor as modern as the rest of the offices but with a few touches which show Mrs. Shepard's fondness for antiques. The next office houses Miss Gaston and Miss Weiss. It is strictly modern and painted green for contrast.

At the end of the short corridor is the workshop—a room that will seat 100 persons for an audience-type meeting and 30 to 40 for a working session. Powder-blue cabinets and modern equipment line the walls. Counter tops are a rosy-colored plastic. It's as gay and sophisticated as the Caribbean designs on the gray background wallpaper above the cabinets.

Mrs. Shepard was in such a happy mood when the new office was opened officially recently that she even gave forth some of the tech-

niques that were used in getting it.

"Don't wait for the county to give you space," she advises any agent looking for new quarters. "If you do, chances are all the desirable space will be taken by somebody else. Present your plans—specific plans—early."

Another trick of the Essex County agents was to keep reminding the authorities about the nuisances of the old place. No nagging, no scowling—just gentle reminders when the roof leaked, the plumbing got clogged, or the furnace went haywire.

Then there was the annual luncheon for the County Board of Freeholders given with a genuine "we-carry-on-with-a-smile-in-spite-of-handicaps" attitude. The entire office staff pitched in to serve the county officials luncheon in the office, making no particular secret of the fact that they had to carry the food to the third floor apartment of the caretaker in order to warm it and then tote it down to the second floor again to serve it. This is bound to impress both men and women officials.



Good light ranks high among the assets in the new office, in the opinion of the three secretaries.



Associate Agent Alice Gaston shows the new bulletin files to Associate Agent Mary Jane Ellis from Somerset County, N. J.

# Teamwork at a Demonstration Center

BETTY WILLIAMS, former home economist for the Rural Electrification Administration, southeast area; and former extension home management specialist in Arkansas.

ALL ACROSS the country in various States rural electric cooperatives' personnel and county extension agents are getting together to work toward a common goal—improved rural welfare, increased farm income, higher levels of living, and greater happiness for farm people.

And they are getting together in equipped demonstration areas provided by the co-ops.

In many rural communities a suitable space for meetings for farm groups is a constant problem facing Extension Service personnel. Especially is this true for food demonstration. These situations afford a ready opportunity for cooperation and service by both groups. Extension Service and co-op personnel are using these demonstration areas constructively, wisely and to the advantage of both groups for the benefit of members.

## *Well Equipped for Demonstrations*

Mary Sumner, a former assistant home agent and now electrification adviser for the Caney Fork Electric Cooperative, McMinnville, Tenn., worked diligently in planning the demonstration area for the headquarters building.

"Our demonstration area is not called a kitchen," she says, "since we include many more activities in this room than will occur in an ordinary kitchen of a farm home. But since our building was converted from an old colonial home to an office building we have been able to maintain a more homelike atmosphere in our auditorium."

Besides having a model kitchen and laundry room combined, the co-op's space lends itself to use as a

model living room, with opportunities to display proper lighting for various home activities.

Such a demonstration area in the co-op headquarters offers a link between the agent and the electrification adviser. It is common practice in small communities for public-spirited individuals with leadership ability to serve in several community activities. Thus a leader will be active both in PTA and her church. So it is with co-op electrification advisers and extension workers.

Miss Jimmie Temple, electrification adviser for the Roosevelt County Electric Cooperative, Portales, N. Mex., says, "It was through the use of the demonstration area, and planning its use, that the home agent and I came to know each other. She became genuinely interested in my work. Because she had me meet with clubs as the need or occasion presented itself, I was able to get acquainted with our own members faster. This helped me to organize and do better planning of my work."

Miss Temple points out the difficulties an electrification adviser faces when she is getting started in a community. She pays high tribute to the home agent who helped her get off to a good start, make contacts, and pave the way for telling the co-op story.

## *Used for 4-H Contests*

Members of 4-H Clubs have been welcome users of the electric co-op demonstration kitchens. Dairy-food and bread-baking demonstrations, cherry-pie baking contests, and farm and home electric contests have been held in the co-op headquarters at McMinnville, Tenn. This has pleased Electrification Adviser Mary Sum-

ner, but it has "saved the day" for Assistant Home Agent Louise Ashburn. She says, "I don't know what we would do without the demonstration area. We use it on an average of once a week."

The fact that these places are called "demonstration areas" does not limit the meetings to demonstrations. With adequate space and facilities, the area encourages individual or group participation in activities. Clinics, workshops, and schools—three popular education methods today—are frequently held in co-op headquarters by both Extension and co-op personnel. In one co-op building, the extension agricultural engineer uses the area for a sewing machine clinic.

## *A Co-Op Community Service*

The Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corp., Murfreesboro, Tenn., serving 16,000 members in 4 counties, has 3 office buildings, each with a demonstration area. The co-op makes these demonstration areas a community service. Meetings of the Jersey Cattle Club, Soil Conservation Service, Sheep Producers Association, Production Credit Association, Grange, Farm Bureau, Farmers Home Administration, and school lunch room supervisors have been held in its demonstration centers.

"Electric service is only one of the things that our members need. They need and receive many forms of excellent service and assistance from various cooperating agencies and groups. After all, what serves our community serves our members." So says Lorella P. Myers, electrification adviser.

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# Where Libraries Are Far Apart

ELSIE CUNNINGHAM  
State Home Agent, New Mexico

I HAVEN'T read a book in years." A few years ago, it wasn't at all uncommon to hear this statement from homemakers in New Mexico. Libraries were—and still are—few and far apart in the Sunshine State, where only 36 public libraries serve an area of 121,000 square miles. Some counties have no libraries. Busy homemakers don't have time to travel great distances for books.

Today, hundreds of New Mexico rural homemakers are reading more good books than ever before, thanks to a reading program sponsored by the women's extension clubs in the State. In cooperation with the New Mexico Library Commission in Santa Fe and local libraries, many library "stations" in rural communities are supplied with good books. Extension



Joan Johnson and Phyllis Davenport, Farley 4-H'ers, are frequent visitors to the Library, which is especially popular with children and young people.

club members take turns at serving as "librarian" at these stations.

New Mexico's rural reading program, which has been in effect since 1948, encourages good reading by offering certificates to club members who read three or more books a year from recommended lists, which are prepared jointly by the State library commission and the Extension Service. Each list, issued annually, contains some 200 titles of interesting and readable books on travel, biography, current affairs, child care, and family relations, as well as the latest novels. With so many good books to choose from, most homemakers don't stop at the three books required for the certificate, but go on and read many more.

Packets of books, which are sent from the State library commission to the extension club stations, are rotated among 125 clubs which participate in the program. Club members may also obtain their books from local libraries, book-of-the-month clubs, or any source they choose. In one county alone, 380 members in 17 clubs read more than 1,261 books in a single year.

The reading program for the clubs is managed on a county basis. The reading chairmen from the various women's extension clubs make up a county reading committee. The committee concerns itself with such matters as exchange of "book packets," reports, recognition, and awards. It also plans book reviews and exhibits to further interest in

the reading program. County extension agents give encouragement and guidance to homemakers' groups, 4-H Clubs, and other organizations, in an effort to make more books available to rural families.

The certificate which members receive bears the home demonstration seal, and a blue star if the member has attended a book review, or a gold star if the member has given a book review.

Through this reading program, farm and ranchwomen living in the most remote area of New Mexico have the opportunity to read and keep up to date. With electricity reaching farther out into rural sections, there has been an increase in number of mechanized farms and conveniently equipped homes, which has resulted in better lighting and more time for reading.

Homemakers in New Mexico believe that their reading program is serving a real need and is achieving the purposes for which it was established:

To provide inspiration, information, and entertainment by encouraging the love of reading and the ownership of good books.

To make good books available to all parts of the State.

To acquaint people with books and services available and to help them to know how to get the most from them.

To help homemakers in the selection of books best adapted to their needs.



The extension club library station at Farley, N. Mex., is maintained in a store owned by Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Fielden. Mrs. Lisle James, left, vice president of the New Mexico Association of Home Extension Clubs, and Mrs. Fielden, station "librarian" browse in the library.





Informal meetings offer fellowship and sociability, discussion of new developments relating to farm and home, and opportunity to exchange ideas.

## Young Folks Try Out An Idea From Denmark

R. DALE GLASS

Associate County Agent, Ross County, Ohio

THE RECENT VISIT to Ross County, Ohio, of Elise Hansen of Denmark to learn American ways of agriculture resulted in a suggestion from her that has given rural young folk of that county a new organization.

Miss Hansen's visit to Ohio was under the Nation's Mutual Security Program of technical assistance. The Danish Government selected her to come here as a result of her excellent work as chairman of the farm youth organization in the District of Naestved, Denmark.

Drawing from her own experiences in her native country, Miss Hansen observed the need for an organization here to serve rural young people just starting in the field of farming.

"I have attended your 4-H Club meetings, gone to 4-H Camp, the fair and all that, and it's very good work you are doing with your young boys and girls. I like to meet with your YMW (Young Men and Women)—they do many things. But I do not see these same things for the young married men and women. I think it would be nice to see you not forget your young farmers." These were the frank and hopeful remarks of Elise directed to her hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Gearhart. These remarks fell on sympathetic ears for the Gearharts have two sons starting in farming and they too saw a need for a youthful organization such as Elise was recommending.

Mrs. Gearhart consulted with the

agricultural extension agents of Ross County, and it was quickly decided that an interest determining meeting would be held. Twenty-eight young people attended this first informal meeting on November 6, 1952, and the movement took shape. They unanimously agreed that a need existed for an organization and set forth the following objectives: (1) fellowship, (2) exchange of ideas among members, (3) discussion of new developments relating to farm and home, (4) tours and visits, (5) sociability. Membership was to include both young men and women engaged in agricultural work.

At subsequent meetings, additional ideas were developed for the functioning of this newly organized young farmer group. The members agreed that meetings be informal, not highly organized, and planned so that all members of the group would participate. Therefore, monthly schedules were arranged whereby the host and hostess would be responsible for developing and presenting the program, serving light refreshments, and keeping minutes of the meeting. By functioning in this manner every member at one time or another is responsible for a meeting. One of the group was heard to remark, "I like this system because we don't know what the program will include until the meeting begins. Usually, it is a pleasant surprise. Then too, everyone serving as host has the opportunity of selecting a program in line with his or her interest, which means we all have our say and everybody is happy. It's also good to hear things discussed outside our own sphere of interest."

Except when a topic of common interest to both men and women is selected for discussion, separate sessions are held—the women discussing some phase of homemaking, while the men consider better farming methods and related subjects. The host and hostess serve as chairmen of their respective groups. Most of the members are married couples, some with small children. However, the single members have fitted in with complete harmony, and the two together with a common interest have developed a very active organization.



# *An Experiment in* **YMW Discussion of Public Affairs**

W. W. EURE, National 4-H Club Foundation

"**WE** WOULD LIKE to have another discussion group again this year." This has been the reaction of the first 13 groups to complete the experimental film discussion series on World Affairs and Great Men—Great Issues which the National 4-H Club Foundation has been sponsoring among young men and women's groups this year.

A county agent in Iowa has written, "World Affairs is definitely a timely subject and I think the time and effort spent on the subject can be very well justified in our Extension program." Another agent in West Virginia was glad to be offered a chance to participate in the experiment as indicated by the remark, "I've been looking for something definite to offer the young men and women's group in my county."

Seventeen experimental film discussion groups in seven States are cooperating with the National 4-H Club Foundation and the Extension Service as the result of a grant of funds from the Fund for Adult Education. The groups are located in Connecticut, Iowa, Michigan, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Two series are being tested. One, entitled "World Affairs Are Your Affairs," consists of 10 programs—a study and discussion of today's world—its countries and peoples. The second, a series of 9 programs, entitled "Great Men—Great Issues in Our American Heritage," uses the lives of such men as Franklin, Jefferson, Hamilton, Washington, and Lincoln to point up a discussion of current problems in the Government of the United States. Both series follow the technique of providing a specially prepared essay to be read by group members before the meeting. At the beginning of each meeting, an especially selected educational film is shown and the leaders' manual provided to guide the discussion which follows. Since all members of the group have the common experience of reading the essay and seeing the film, the danger of a group pooling its ignorance is largely eliminated.

In addition to testing the material and discussion methods, we have also been interested among other things in finding out whether or not such program material is suitable for YMW groups and to get some indi-

cation of the acceptability by local groups of similar programs provided on a national scale. The acceptance to date has been excellent in most instances. Here are some sample quotations from young people who are participating.

"The discussions have given an insight into countries of which we know so little. I regret I have no time for more reading."—Young man, Pennsylvania.

"Personally this project has enlarged my knowledge concerning the proper ways of leading a discussion."—Young woman, Virginia.

"You'll note how attendance built up in Jasper County as they went along. They would like another series another winter."—State YMW leader, Iowa.

One story comes out of Iowa which is especially noteworthy. The young people of Delaware County were looking round for a community-service project, and hit upon the idea of taking the World Affairs films and discussions out to the adult farm organization meetings. Three teams were organized, and with films and projectors they covered the county. Since there were not enough essay books for everyone, one member of the youth team told the group what the author said, another showed the film, and a third led the discussion.

The experiment is also attempting to determine whether or not young people will pay for this type of program service. One-third of the groups have had to pay from \$3.50 to \$4.00 per member of the series, one-third have paid half this amount, and a third have had essays and films provided free. Evidence to date indicates little difference in interest and attendance; however, it has been harder to interest individuals in joining a group at the beginning when there is a charge involved.



A group of Kent, Conn., young people consider the pros and cons.

(Continued on page 156)





## 4-H'ers Make Conservation Click

JOHN MAXWELL  
Elk County Agent, Kansas

**D**URING 1952 Elk County 4-H boys and girls had an opportunity to put conservation "to work" in an effort to save the county's most valuable crop—grass.

With the smell of many large prairie grass fires in the wind early in the spring of 1952, the Elk County Livestock and Cattleman's Association took steps to help prevent the serious damage done by careless smokers and would be "picnickers."

All of the 11 4-H Clubs in the county were asked to lend a helping hand. Eight clubs responded to the plea.

The Livestock and Cattleman's Association outlined the proposed grass conservation program to the 4-H'ers in a very attractive manner. Colorful signs requesting tourists and out-

of-county friends to conserve our valuable grass were to be made by the 4-H Clubs with the association sharing the expense of the signboard materials.

Overnight, numerous 4-H grass conservation signs "went up" all over Elk County at important highway junctions, county lines, and on various township roads. Signs reading such as "Don't Burn Our Grass," and "Save Our Grass Crop," caught the eye of thousands traveling through Elk County in 1952.

Grass fires were not fully controlled in the county by any means nor will the 4-H grass conservation signs prevent future grass fires, yet the Elk County 4-H'ers showed what could be done when called upon to help in an emergency.

## YMW Discussion of Public Affairs

(Continued from page 155)

Our experience indicates that this type of program is enthusiastically received by young men and women groups, that they can provide the initiative and leadership required in the discussion of public affairs, and that they like new program ideas and suggestions. We feel that the experiment has made a worthwhile contribution to YMW work in general and helped promote the 4-H motto for 1953, "Working Together for World Understanding."

## Teamwork at a Demonstration Center

(Continued from page 152)

Similar expression comes from the Warren Electric Cooperative at Bowling Green, Ky. "We would like to see the demonstration area used every day," says Electrification Adviser Phil Paler. And Co-op Manager Charles M. Stewart adds, "More use means more service and SERVICE is our motto."

This shows that the rural electric co-ops are anxious to make their facilities available to Extension and other groups. But what about the Extension people? What do they say?

Home Agent Katie Travis down in Pike County, Miss., says, "The Magnolia Electric Power Association's demonstration area is a wonderful help to our demonstration clubwomen. Our dream of a demonstration kitchen of our own has not materialized, but since we have had opportunity of using the demonstration area of the co-op we feel that our dreams have been realized somewhat. Here the women have the advantage of using the most modern cooking utensils and electric appliances."

"Home demonstration club members, 4-H Club girls, the agent, assistant agent, and extension specialist have used the demonstration area in the co-op building for many activities," says Home Agent Winnie Pool, Roosevelt County, N. Mex. "We feel perfectly free to request the use of it, and we greatly appreciate this cooperation."



# LETTERS FROM READERS

## Correcting a Mistake

IT SEEMS that a couple of pictures I got switched on the last page of the May issue of your estimable magazine. The picture you used was one Russ sent recently and which should have the following legend:

"W. C. Krueger, extension farm engineer at Rutgers University (right) receiving citation praising him for his 25 years of service to New Jersey farmers at the annual meeting of the New Jersey Inter-Breed Cattle Association in Far Hills Inn, Somerville. Making the presentation is Pierre D. VanMater, Marlboro, Jersey breeder for several years and a member of the Rutgers Board of Trustees.

"In other words, Krueger was featured in the picture instead of Perry."—Samuel H. Reck, Editor, New Jersey.

*We apologize to Mr. Krueger, Mr. Perry, Sam Reck, and the State of New Jersey. Belated congratulations to Mr. Krueger on his well-deserved citation.*

## Send Five More Copies

"I like to think that Extension from the beginning was a response to the expressed needs of the people, and a few strong men sensitive to these needs developed a method by which the people could meet their needs.

"The new generation of extension workers is having no small amount of difficulty in deciding what to believe for and about Extension. Perhaps if they could see the difference between (1) men and women who know how to respond so that people can meet their own needs; and (2) men and women who develop ideas and sell them to the people so that a better report can be written, or so that one county can report that it is as successful as a neighboring county.

"The February issue of the EXTENSION SERVICE REVIEW is so well organized that I would like to have five extra copies to share with some

especially promising new workers in years to come. Also, my present copy is rapidly becoming dog-eared from showing to visitors who don't know what Extension is."—William R. Miller, Regional Extension Agent, Massachusetts.

*To all of you who took the time and effort to write us about the anniversary issue, our hearts felt thanks.*

## From Brazil

"I came back from the States in 1944 and soon after I founded a school in the north of Brazil, preparing girls from all the north and northeast States to work in the Extension Service (Home Demonstration Work).

"We got wonderful results and now we have one school more in the center of the country and 178 graduated girls or better, home demonstration agents.

"In 1947 because of politics I resigned my position of director of the Service and I went to Argentina (Buenos Aires) where I remained nearly 3 years studying Nutrition in The National Institute of Nutrition; I graduated in M.D. Nutrition Specialist and in Dietetics (Dietitian).

"Now, since last year I assume again the same position of Chief of the Extension Service of the 'Servico de Alimentacao da Previdencia Social' (Food and Nutrition Service of Social Welfare).

"I am interested now in receiving the publications and reviews about Extension Service and to get contact with you in order to be informed about your improvement relating to this subject.

"If I can I shall send you some news and photographs of our clubs here and about our work.

"Our clubs, similar to your 4-H Clubs are called 4-E Clubs adapted to yours."—Dr. Clara Sambaquy, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

*Some readers may remember the article and picture of Dr. Sambaquy in the July 1944 REVIEW. She spent*

*most of her time in Mississippi and Georgia, studying home demonstration work and 4-H Clubs.*

● "I am writing from 'down under' . . . below the equator . . . in Brazil, South America, where the sun shines on the north side of buildings and Christmas comes in the summer.

"Yesterday I realized as never before how knowledge helps to make one free. We had gone to visit a farm in the country back up on the slope of the mountains and we bumped along in a 'jeep' over roads that had never seen rock, gravel, or concrete. Perhaps you can imagine how different the farm home seemed from our Hoosier farmsteads. The house was made of bamboo sticks, plastered together with mud, and topped with a thatched roof. There were holes and open spaces in the walls, which served to let the smoke out and provided ventilation too, I suppose. Their stove was much like our backyard furnaces except there was no chimney, while the floor was the earth itself. For furniture, this family had a crude table and bench and for beds some wood frames supporting corn husk mattresses.

"None of the family could hop into a car and be in town in a few minutes. There was no school close and church required a day's journey. Illnesses like dysentery, malnutrition, and parasites were endured, not cured.

"This homemaker had no club nor other contacts where women talk things over. She had no radio, no meetings with lessons nor people who could bring her information. Today she lived much as yesterday with tomorrow only another today. She is a prisoner in a vacuum without education, transportation, or communications.—Eva L. Goble, State Leader, Home Demonstration Agents, Indiana.

*Miss Goble is on temporary assignment in Brazil. The above is excerpted from a letter written to the 70,000 home demonstration clubwomen in her State.*



## The 5-Year Room Plan

*(Continued from page 148)*

as their working laboratory. Or, they could buy the items readymade, or plan them and have them custom-made, and supervise their making.

Again enrollment increased and interest was on the upswing. Girls were beginning to understand why they should not attempt to do everything in the room in 1 year. Likewise, leaders and parents were beginning to see the wisdom of planning "backwards and forwards."

In 1950 the project selected was "wall finishes." Color and use of pattern were important emphases. Leaders and members learned what materials were available and the various treatments which might be used. State tours were planned.

A trip through a wall paper factory intensified interest. A visit to a charming, but modest, new home showed clever use of paint. Several counties organized countywide clubs for the project. Other counties took members to decorator shops, homes, public buildings, and to stores for talks with buyers.

In 1951 "furniture and accessories" stepped up the enrollment. New members were allowed to come in but had to start with the current phase of work. As more handbooks were made available, girls were allowed to carry one, two, or more phases of the work at one time. We were anxious to study this method as opposed to the "one phase at a time" plan.

The girls studied furniture construction and "what is quality" in furniture. They studied the accessories for their room, such as lamps and pictures, which give sparkle and finish.

Members were invited to the Illinois State Fair for tours, and a high percentage of those enrolled attended, many of them paying all of their own expenses. We visited the art department of the State Extension Library, department stores where buyers discussed china, glassware, silver, linens, floor covering, draperies, and all types of furniture.

We visited art stores to see exquisite prints and decorative acces-

sories. We spent an evening in a decorator's shop where custom furniture was built and saw the construction of a wing chair from the first step to completion.

A conducted tour through the Governor's mansion served to show the girls a different type of decorating—that for large rooms with high ceilings.

The tours were followed by get-together discussion sessions. Illustrative materials were used during the sessions, and many of the things seen on the tours were discussed in relation to the project work which was underway.

In 1952—the fifth year of the study—Floor and Floor Coverings was selected as the project. Members had a choice of refinishing a floor, making a rug, buying a floor covering, either hard or soft, or of

planning what they would select for the room when replacement was to be made. Again we were attempting to prove that the project need not be too costly.

Comments from leaders, parents, and members are an indication of the value of the plan. Members are very conscious of the fact that they have grown and developed with the project. They are unanimous in the opinion that one phase of the work should be taken at a time.

Girls, who have completed 5 years, and are still within the 4-H age bracket, are asking for more projects. A number of the girls who started the project have married and are now using the information.

There is much yet to be done. The 5-year study merely serves to point the way to the need and to the potential of room-improvement work.

## Recognizing FFA 25th Anniversary

IN recognition of the 25th Anniversary of the Future Farmers of America, members of the Extension Service staff arranged a special luncheon for three officials of the FFA as a tribute to the fine work they are carrying on. Left to right (seated) H. N. Hansucker, Assistant Executive Secretary, FFA; C. M. Ferguson, Director of Extension Work; Fern Shipley, 4-H Club and YMW Programs; W. T. Spanton, Na-

tional FFA Advisor. (Back row) Norman Mindrum, Executive Director, National 4-H Club Foundation; C. C. Lang, 4-H Club and YMW Programs; A. W. Tenney, Executive Secretary, FFA; P. V. Kepner, Assistant Extension Director; E. W. Aiton, Leader, 4-H Club and YMW Programs; George Foster, 4-H Club and YMW Programs; and Warren Schmidt, YMW Programs.





## Extension Legislation Modernized

(Continued from page 149)

as they were in 1953, this act stipulates a specific formula to govern the allocation of any future increases in appropriations. This formula provides that 4 percent of such future increases "shall be allotted among the States, Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico by the Secretary of Agriculture on the basis of special needs as determined by the Secretary." Forty-eight percent shall be allotted on the basis of farm population and 48 percent on the basis of rural population.

This formula is generally conceded to be as fair and equitable to all as could be devised. It resulted from intensive consideration of this problem by all directly concerned.

### **Basic Provisions of Previous Legislation Continued**

This consolidation and simplification of Extension's previous legislation changes none of the basic purposes, functions, and activities of the Cooperative Extension Service. However, there was one clarifying amendment to the definition section of the original Smith-Lever Act which is of some significance. The pertinent portion of this section (section 2) was revised to read, "the giving of instruction and practical demonstrations in agriculture and home economics and subjects relating thereto." In the words of the House Committee on Agriculture Report: "The phrase 'and subjects relating thereto' is added to the language of the Smith-Lever Act to make certain that the new legislation will authorize all those extension activities, such as 4-H Club work, education in rural health and sanitation, and similar aspects of the manifold extension program heretofore authorized and now being carried on under existing law.

"Sponsors of the legislation, and your committee as well, deemed this the safest means of assuring the continued flexibility which is so essential to effective operation of the extension program."

The need for such legislation, in the interest of more efficient operations and effective extension administration, has long been recognized. The specific wording of the new act was arrived at after careful deliberation and discussions, over a considerable period of time, by a committee representing State extension directors and the Department of Agriculture. In the process of its deliberations the committee checked its proposals with all extension directors in order that the viewpoints of all might be considered.

The bill as introduced, and as passed without amendment, was approved by the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities and the Secretary of Agriculture. It had bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate, and was enacted into legislation without any Congressional opposition. Again in the words of the House Committee on Agriculture in reporting the bill, "This bill provides a basic authorization for agricultural extension work that will be flexible and dynamic as the needs of the Agricultural Extension Service may require."

With this clear, simplified, and modernized basic legislation Extension has a renewed challenge to increase and modernize its services and productivity in accordance with the manifold needs of the people it was established to serve.

## Job of the Secretary

(Continued from page 150)

the agents, and it has proved helpful to us to take part in these meetings at regular intervals. We become acquainted with the work that is planned for the month ahead in each of the departments in the extension office, and can more readily answer questions and give information about the planned program of work.

The secretary can get her work done as quickly and efficiently as possible if she tries to have her working space arranged conveniently, with files, bulletin cabinets, and work space placed for her easy access to them. This can be done only after she has worked with the equipment for some time.

One of our big problems has been our bulletin files. Both the home agent and I had been wasting much time hunting for information, perhaps with someone waiting on the telephone and with neither of us having much luck. We finally decided to put different colored labels on the outside of our old black cardboard file boxes; that is, a different color for each phase of work, such as pink for clothing, blue for home furnishings, and so on. These small box files were then returned to the storage cupboard and a small guide sheet prepared.

In our job as extension secretaries we meet many people, mostly rural people who are coming to us for help and information. They have a right to expect absolute courtesy from us, as well as all the help we are able to give them. Many times the office secretary will be able to give the caller the help or information she is seeking. If not, she will be expected to get all the necessary information from the caller so that the agent may later write, telephone, or make a home call to this person and give her the assistance or advice she needs.

I think it is absolutely necessary for the office secretary to write everything down whether it is a request for a bulletin or an order from the agent; she should not trust her memory.

I'd like to say that I've enjoyed the years spent as secretary in the extension office in Marathon County. The work was never dull, and sometimes very interesting. It is impossible for us *not* to absorb much of the material that is prepared and given to the farmers and homemakers. Much of this information has been valuable to me as a homemaker.

Members of South Dakota's home demonstration clubs are sponsoring for the first time two annual scholarships to home economics students at South Dakota State College. Known as the Susan Z. Wilder loan and scholarship project, it was first established as a loan fund. This spring, two junior women were awarded the scholarships.

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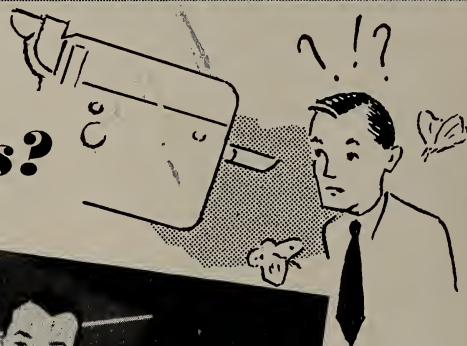
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